

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER
NICOLE PARRA**

Representing the 30th Assembly District

**Parra Notes****February 15, 2008**

Hello Friends,

In the recently concluded election, Proposition 93 failed to pass. Prop. 93 would have extended the term limits for members of the State Legislature. As many of you have read or heard about in the local media, **I publicly announced *before the election* that I would not seek re-election**, even if Prop. 93 had passed.

The time has come for me to pursue a new path in my professional life. I have been a public servant for almost my entire adult life. I am proud of my successes in helping the 30th Assembly District **access funds for greater public safety, increase opportunities for economic development, and improve our educational system.**

I appreciate many of the kind words of encouragement and support that I have already begun receiving from constituents. My commitment to you is to continue working as hard as ever on your behalf in Sacramento. There are still a number of legislative victories to be won for my district over the next few months. And with the budget debate in full gear, I will be doing everything I can to make sure the Central Valley and our priorities have a champion under the Dome.

Looking back, I would like to say **thank you** for all of your inspiration, kindness, and support over the past 5+ years. **I am dedicated** to making my final year in the State Legislature a positive one for **you and the wonderful people of the 30th Assembly District.**

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What's Happening in Sacramento

Today, **the Assembly and Senate passed a package of emergency spending cuts, in bi-partisan fashion**, which ensure the state will have enough money to get through the fiscal year. Many of the cuts are unfortunate but necessary to keep the state from running out of funds and facing even worse problems in the 2008-2009 budget. Through a combination of \$1.4 billion in cuts and funding solutions and the administration's sale of voter-approved economic recovery bonds, we have turned what was projected to be a dangerous \$3.7 billion deficit this year into a prudent \$1 billion reserve. **We are reducing the deficit in half** – from a projected \$14.9 billion budget year deficit to \$7.4 billion. For more info see:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/pdf/SpecialSessionSubcommitteeReport.pdf>

With the defeat of Proposition 93, the State Senate and Assembly will chose new leaders, as **Senate pro Tem Don Perata and Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez will be termed out this year**. The Senate acted quickly and chose **Senator Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) as their new leader**. Senator Steinberg has been a champion of many issues, including mental health. The Assembly will decide on a new leader on March 11. Both decisions will come to an official vote before their respective houses in August.

This week, the **Honorable Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, President of Mexico**, delivered an address before a Joint Convention of the Legislature in the Assembly Chambers. President Calderón stressed the importance of labor reforms and increased investment. It was part of the President's first tour of the United States his election in 2006. The President has instituted a number of reforms, including a tougher stance on illegal drugs and crime. President Calderón also announced his intention of signing an environmental agreement with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to fight climate change through the use of alternative energies. I had the privilege of attending a special reception with President Calderon and Governor Schwarzenegger later that afternoon.

My Legislative Highlights

Thank you to the **Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California (CELSOC)** for **honoring me as the recipient of their 2007 Legislator of the Year Award**. CELSOC members are involved in all aspects of design, construction, and repair of California's infrastructure facilities. I appreciate their recognition of my commitment to our state's growth and my support of the private sector's role in solving our infrastructure problems. www.celsoc.org

The California Centers for International Trade Development, in cooperation with California Department of Food and Agriculture, is hosting a **California Agricultural Export Training Certificate Program (CalAgX) for farmers, ranchers and food processors**. This training program is designed to meet the education needs of agricultural companies seeking to export their products worldwide. The deadline to register is February 29, 2008. Companies interested in registering for the program should visit www.citd.org/calag

Constituents Visit Sacramento

I was pleased to **join Mayor Nettie Morrison from Allensworth** in Sacramento to celebrate the opening of a new exhibit that will travel throughout the State. The reception and exhibit were a poignant reflection of Colonel Allensworth, his dreams, and past 100 years of the town, that bears his name. The exhibit is sponsored by the California Legislative Black Caucus, in partnership with the California State Parks, the California African-American Museum, and the California Community Empowerment Foundation. www.parks.ca.gov/Events/event_detail.asp?id=1974

Members of the **Kern County Water Agency** came to Sacramento. We had a productive discussion of the current Special Session on Water, and plans underway to collect signatures for a water bond measure on the November ballot that would include money for storage, conservation,

and conveyance.

I had the pleasure of meeting with **Arvin High School's Constitutional Debate Team**. This wonderful group of young scholars should be the pride of Arvin. The program teaches them about the history and content of both the Federal and State Constitutions and they learn important advocacy and debate skills in the process. They came to the Capitol to compete and I was pleased to meet with them and share my story of public service and learn about their program. Special thanks to the faculty, coaches, and parents who served as chaperons for this important event.

It was good to see **Donna Carpenter and Darryl Tucker representing the Kern County Home Builders Association**. They came to share their thoughts on transportation and housing issues the Association is dealing with and discussed recent Kern County bond measures.

I was pleased to meet with students from **Mark Twain Elementary School in Corcoran** as they made their trip on the Amtrak to the Capitol. Each year **Rae Ann Boyett and her group of fourth graders** from Mark Twain come to Sacramento for a tour of the Capitol Building. I am always excited to see the students as they get to see and learn of the building's history and current events in the Legislature. This year they were also able to view the Allensworth exhibit. The students were full of questions and I had a great time with them. The class was accompanied on the train ride from Corcoran with **Richard Valle**, my District Director. **Rene Bayardo**, an intern in my Sacramento office, led the class on their tour of the Capitol.

Representatives from the **Friant Water Authority** visited with me. We discussed California's current water crisis and the ongoing need for both infrastructure improvements and a reliable water supply. We talked about the Judge Wenger decision and what it means for Delta smelt and restrictions on water export pumping. Water is the lifeblood of the Valley, for both people and agriculture, and I am dedicated to making sure the Legislature understands the reality of the situation and its consequences for our region. I am also committed to a comprehensive solution to this crisis; a solution that increases our capacity for water storage and conveyance.

I met Friday with **Kern County District Attorney Edward Jagels, Sheriff-Coroner Donny Youngblood, and Bakersfield Chief of Police Bill Rector**. The three visited Sacramento urging legislators to avoid budget cuts to the state's prison system that would result in the early release of inmates. This is shaping up to be among the toughest budget years in memory and nearly every state funded program will see some funding reductions, including correctional services.

In the District

Congratulations to **Kings County for being named one of eight new enterprise zones by the California Department of Housing and Community Development**. The California Enterprise Zone Program targets economically distressed areas using special state and local incentives to promote business investment and job creation. By encouraging entrepreneurship and employer growth, the program strives to create and sustain economic expansion in California communities. The new designations will take the place of eight zones that are expiring over the next several

months. Each zone designation is in effect for 15 years.

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov

Internships

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Derek Chernow** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: Derek.Chernow@asm.ca.gov

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